

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A suture anchoring device comprising:

a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to an inner point of the first retaining member;

a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface, a fifth surface, a sixth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane, ~~the second retaining means having a holding means~~ and the fifth surface and the sixth surface lie nominally perpendicular to the second outer edge at their lines of intersection therewith;

a holding means positioned within the second retaining member, the holding means comprised of an opening extending from the fifth or the sixth surface to within the second retaining member; and

a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler joins the first

Application No.: 10/743,667
Amendment Dated: February 11, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed September 11, 2006

retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and the third surface;

wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the first outer edge to the third outer edge of the coupler.

Claim 4 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the opening on the first retaining member extends from the second surface to the first surface.

Claims 5-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Currently amended): The suture anchoring device of claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, where the holding means opening further comprises an entrance and a rear surface and the width of the entrance is less than the width of the rear surface.

Claim 8 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the coupler is a cylindrical member.

Claim 9 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1 where the coupler is a helical member.

Claim 10 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first

plane is larger than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 11 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 12 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1, where the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane is substantially the same as the cross-sectional area of the second retaining member taken in a parallel plane.

Claim 13 (Original): The suture anchoring device of claim 1 where surfaces and corners are rounded.

Claim 14 (Original): A method of securing a suture used in a surgical procedure comprising the steps of:

(a) locating a suture anchoring device in the proximity of a suture site, the suture anchoring device comprising:

a first retaining member having a first surface, a second surface and a

first outer edge; where the second surface lies in a first plane; the first retaining member having an opening that extends from the first outer edge to an inner point of the first retaining member;

a second retaining member having a third surface, a fourth surface and a second outer edge; where the third surface lies in a second plane, the second retaining member having a holding means;

Application No.: 10/743,667

Amendment Dated: February 11, 2007

Reply to Office Action Mailed September 11, 2006

a coupler having a third outer edge and a cross-sectional area taken in a plane parallel to the first plane that is smaller than the cross-sectional area of the first retaining member taken in a plane parallel to the first plane; where the coupler joins the first retaining member to the second retaining member at the second surface and third surface;

wherein the second and third surfaces are parallel to each other and non-coterminous;

- (b) introducing the suture into said opening;
- (c) wrapping the suture around the third outer edged of the coupler;

and

- (d) introducing the suture in the holding means.